



# AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

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NOON 26 NOVEMBER 1981

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1981

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**PHONE INQUIRIES** *for more information about these statistics*—contact Mr Geoff Winter on Canberra (062) 52 6576 or any of our State offices.

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**MAIL INQUIRIES** *write to* Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

### MAIN FEATURES

During August 1981 approximately 237,100 working days were lost in 310 disputes involving the loss of 10 or more man days.

The main disputes involved employees in the ship repair industry in N.S.W. and printing industry employees in five States.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

More detailed information about disputes appears in the quarterly publication *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in *Australian Standard Industrial Classification, 1978, Vol. 1* (1201.0).

#### Coverage

3. The statistics refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are those thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments, but having a common cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Average days lost per worker involved on a monthly basis are not comparable with the yearly averages, because workers involved are included in each month in which they are involved in disputes, while they are counted once only for each dispute in the annual statistics.

#### Related publications

5. Users may also wish to refer to the following publication:

*Industrial Disputes, Australia* (6322.0)—quarterly and annual.

6. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary—figure subject to revision
- r revised
- nil or rounded to zero

7. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

**R. J. CAMERON**  
Australian Statistician



TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

| Period    | Number of disputes  |          | Workers involved ('000) |          | Working days lost |                                     | Estimated loss in wages(a) (\$'000) |
|-----------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|           | Commenced in period | Total(a) | Newly involved(b)       | Total(a) | Number(a) ('000)  | Average days per worker involved(c) |                                     |
| 1978      | 2,276               | 2,277    | 1,075.6                 | 1,075.6  | 2,130.8           | 2.0                                 | 78,404                              |
| 1979      | 2,040               | 2,042    | 1,861.6                 | 1,862.9  | 3,964.4           | 2.1                                 | 148,614                             |
| 1980      | 2,420               | 2,429    | 1,165.2                 | 1,172.8  | 3,320.2           | 2.8                                 | 152,022                             |
| 1980—     |                     |          |                         |          |                   |                                     |                                     |
| July      | 222                 | 271      | 52.9                    | 135.8    | 318.3             | 2.3                                 | 16,317                              |
| August    | 201                 | 252      | 74.8                    | 141.1    | 316.5             | 2.2                                 | 15,791                              |
| September | 273                 | 317      | 63.6                    | 114.6    | 218.5             | 1.9                                 | 10,296                              |
| October   | 284                 | 345      | 75.8                    | 135.7    | 254.2             | 1.9                                 | 11,387                              |
| November  | 240                 | 310      | 104.9                   | 129.8    | 250.1             | 1.9                                 | 12,318                              |
| December  | 142                 | 211      | 38.9                    | 61.7     | 126.7             | 2.1                                 | 6,256                               |
| 1981—     |                     |          |                         |          |                   |                                     |                                     |
| January   | 156                 | 184      | 50.3                    | 64.9     | 89.8              | 1.4                                 | 4,531                               |
| February  | 261                 | 317      | 84.9                    | 126.4    | 318.8             | 2.5                                 | 15,738                              |
| March     | 269                 | 338      | 70.8                    | 105.2    | 248.1             | 2.4                                 | 13,279                              |
| April p   | 199                 | 270      | 46.1                    | 91.5     | 176.2             | 1.9                                 | 9,765                               |
| May p     | 276                 | 341      | 67.6                    | 107.7    | 216.4             | 2.0                                 | 11,301                              |
| June p    | 237                 | 314      | 120.2                   | 169.7    | 369.4             | 2.2                                 | 19,471                              |
| July p    | 263                 | 355      | 94.6                    | 173.4    | 568.4             | 3.3                                 | 29,002                              |
| August p  | 233                 | 310      | 77.6                    | 133.0    | 237.1             | 2.1                                 | 13,166                              |

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises workers involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional workers involved in disputes which continued from the previous month. (c) Monthly figures are not comparable with yearly figures.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a) : INDUSTRIES, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

| Period    | Mining |       | Manufacturing                           |       | Construction | Transport and storage; Communication |       | Other industries (b) | All industries |
|-----------|--------|-------|---|-------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------|----------------------|----------------|
|           | Coal   | Other | Metal products, machinery and equipment | Other |              | Stevedoring services                 | Other |                      |                |
| 1978      | 142.3  | 125.1 | 732.1                                   | 490.2 | 134.1        | 122.9                                | 166.9 | 217.2                | 2,130.8        |
| 1979      | 232.6  | 283.6 | 929.7                                   | 749.0 | 359.7        | 114.3                                | 435.8 | 859.7                | 3,964.4        |
| 1980      | 710.7  | 197.7 | 615.9                                   | 728.4 | 217.9        | 73.4                                 | 142.5 | 633.7                | 3,320.2        |
| 1980—     |        |       |   |       |              |                                      |       |                      |                |
| July      | 137.2  | 5.9   | 39.4                                    | 58.7  | 34.9         | 4.0                                  | 3.6   | 34.5                 | 318.3          |
| August    | 108.2  | 11.7  | 58.0                                    | 44.7  | 26.5         | 16.8                                 | 21.0  | 29.5                 | 316.5          |
| September | 47.0   | 15.6  | 52.4                                    | 31.3  | 15.1         | 5.8                                  | 6.3   | 44.9                 | 218.5          |
| October   | 15.7   | 40.7  | 41.6                                    | 61.6  | 35.3         | 1.0                                  | 8.4   | 49.8                 | 254.2          |
| November  | 9.7    | 29.5  | 40.8                                    | 64.9  | 9.0          | 3.0                                  | 6.6   | 86.4                 | 250.1          |
| December  | 6.1    | 12.1  | 30.2                                    | 38.8  | 8.6          | 0.8                                  | 3.9   | 26.1                 | 126.7          |
| 1981—     |        |       |   |       |              |                                      |       |                      |                |
| January   | 4.8    | 4.8   | 12.9                                    | 11.9  | 6.6          | 2.2                                  | 5.3   | 41.3                 | 89.8           |
| February  | 12.7   | 39.5  | 47.8                                    | 22.8  | 16.9         | 5.7                                  | 39.3  | 134.1                | 318.8          |
| March     | 21.7   | 41.4  | 98.7                                    | 16.0  | 24.7         | 5.3                                  | 25.8  | 14.5                 | 248.1          |
| April p   | 12.6   | 9.8   | 68.5                                    | 12.3  | 28.6         | 7.1                                  | 18.1  | 19.2                 | 176.2          |
| May p     | 11.6   | 29.2  | 109.6                                   | 16.8  | 23.2         | 3.5                                  | 11.4  | 11.1                 | 216.4          |
| June p    | 34.3   | 22.8  | 105.2                                   | 66.0  | 36.5         | 1.0                                  | 69.0  | 34.5                 | 369.4          |
| July p    | 30.5   | 35.9  | 73.8                                    | 54.6  | 60.6         | 0.3                                  | 196.7 | 115.9                | 568.4          |
| August p  | 26.1   | 28.3  | 62.2                                    | 36.8  | 21.5         | 0.8                                  | 19.7  | 41.7                 | 237.1          |

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) ASIC divisions A, D, F, I to L.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES(a) : WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

| Period    | N.S.W.  | Vic.    | Qld   | S.A.  | W.A.  | Tas. | Aust.(b) |
|-----------|---------|---------|-------|-------|-------|------|----------|
| 1978      | 970.8   | 468.1   | 360.3 | 79.1  | 197.9 | 35.4 | 2,130.8  |
| 1979      | 1,369.9 | 1,486.1 | 467.9 | 186.5 | 348.1 | 59.8 | 3,964.4  |
| 1980      | 1,208.6 | 1,115.4 | 618.7 | 59.4  | 191.0 | 91.5 | 3,320.2  |
| 1980—     |         |         |       |       |       |      |          |
| July      | 114.0   | 46.5    | 130.4 | 6.3   | 16.1  | 4.0  | 318.3    |
| August    | 70.8    | 94.6    | 134.3 | 2.9   | 4.3   | 7.1  | 316.5    |
| September | 70.6    | 60.5    | 58.1  | 2.2   | 14.1  | 9.7  | 218.5    |
| October   | 104.7   | 47.0    | 46.6  | 7.0   | 13.3  | 34.0 | 254.2    |
| November  | 120.8   | 55.6    | 33.6  | 7.1   | 14.5  | 17.0 | 250.1    |
| December  | 53.7    | 41.0    | 13.9  | 0.2   | 12.6  | 0.9  | 126.7    |
| 1981—     |         |         |       |       |       |      |          |
| January   | 63.8    | 9.2     | 12.2  | 0.9   | 2.1   | 1.6  | 89.8     |
| February  | 218.0   | 40.7    | 26.5  | 7.5   | 15.8  | 2.5  | 318.8    |
| March     | 129.6   | 49.6    | 40.6  | 5.6   | 17.8  | 0.5  | 248.1    |
| April p   | 87.0    | 41.7    | 27.1  | 7.5   | 7.2   | 0.2  | 176.2    |
| May p     | 21.8    | 36.0    | 29.4  | 4.6   | 15.3  | 1.0  | 216.4    |
| June p    | 144.5   | 100.1   | 68.7  | 20.2  | 26.3  | 3.2  | 369.4    |
| July p    | 129.1   | 156.9   | 96.0  | 64.3  | 68.0  | 21.1 | 568.4    |
| August p  | 109.3   | 44.5    | 37.6  | 6.5   | 24.3  | 5.7  | 237.1    |

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.